Nov. 19-1858

V. R.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies.

PROCLAMATION having the Force of Law to Indemnify the Governor and other Officers for Acts done before the Establishment of any Legitimate Authority in British Columbia.

WHEREAS, large number of Her Majesty's subjects and others, have resorted to and settled on the territory now comprised within the limits of this Colony, before the establishment of any settled form of government therein, and it has been necessary to take steps for the establishment and maintenance of peace, order and good government, and for the protection of the rights of Her Majesty, and for the collection of a revenue from lands belonging to Her Majesty; some of which steps may not have been fully authorized in point of law:

And Whereas, by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor of the Colony of British Columbia, have been authorized, by Proclamation issued under the Public Seal of the Colony, to make Laws, Institutions and Ordinances for the peace, order and good Government of the same:

Be it therefore known to all whom it may concern, that I, the said James Douglas, Governor of British Columbia, do hereby, in virtue of the authority aforesaid, enact and proclaim that every act, matter or thing bona fide done and performed for any of the purposes, aforesaid before the date of this proclamation, by me, the said James Douglas, or any other person or persons acting under my authority or direction, shall be deemed to be and to have been valid in Law, and that I, the said James Douglas, and the said other persons, shall be and hereby are severally and jointly indemnified, freed and discharged from and against all actions, suits, prosecutions and penalties whatever, in respect of any such act, matter or thing, and that the same shall not be questioned in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Civil or Criminal jurisdiction in this Colony.

And I do further enact and proclaim that any declaration in writing, under the hand of the Governor, or officer administering the Government of British Columbia, to the effect that any act, matter or thing specified therein, was done or performed for any of such purposes, or under any such direction or authority as aforesaid, shall, for the purposes of this proclamation, be conclusive evidence of the matters stated therein, and shall be a sufficient discharge and indemnity to all persons mentioned in the said declaration in respect of the act, matter or thing specified therein.

Issued at Fort Langly, under the Public Seal of the said Colony, this nineteenth day of November, 1858, in the Twenty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor. { L.S. }

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.